

R. Ridgway

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BULLETIN
— OF THE —
COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

A BI-MONTHLY EXPONENT OF CALIFORNIAN ORNITHOLOGY.

Vol. 1. No. 3.

Santa Clara, Cal., May-June, 1899.

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Summer Resident Warblers of Arizona.

BY O. W. HOWARD, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, Feb. 25, 1899.]

LUCY'S WARBLER.

LUCY'S WARBLER is fairly common along the river bottoms throughout Southern Arizona, especially in the mesquite and willow thickets. The birds appear early in April and I found them breeding early in May, and took my first set on May 8, 1897, near Tucson. The nest was placed in a deserted woodpecker's excavation in a dead limb of a hack-berry tree, about fifteen feet from the ground. The nest was composed of fine straws, horse-hair and feathers and contained four fresh eggs. The eggs are pure white, with fine specks of red and brown over the entire shell, but thicker at the larger end.

Another nest found May 9, 1897, was placed in a deserted Verdin's nest in a thorny bush about six feet up. The nest was destroyed by my enlarging the entrance and I was obliged to take the three fresh eggs which were probably an incomplete set. Other nests were placed in crevices along river

banks where roots of trees were sticking out and one or two were found in natural cavities of the Giant Cactus, or in woodpecker's holes therein. But most of the nests were in mesquite trees, in natural cavities or behind pieces of loose bark, ranging in height from two to twenty feet from the ground, but as a rule they are within easy reach.

The nests are very frail affairs and are made of fine straws, vegetable fibres and leaves, with a lining of feathers and hair. The usual clutch of eggs consists of four or five, but quite often only three are laid and I have found two sets of seven each. The birds are rather wild and as a rule fly from the nest unobserved. Many nests are destroyed by wood-rats and snakes. I found several nests with incomplete sets and when I returned for them later, I found the nests entirely destroyed.

OLIVE WARBLER.

The Olive Warblers are not at all common and as they keep well up in the thick foliage of pines and firs comparatively few of them are seen. They can more readily be located by their note which is hardly describable, but when once heard is easily detected. The nests are very beautiful affairs and

are built very much like those of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and are composed of bits of moss, lichens, fur blossoms and spider webs, with a lining of fine rootlets. The eggs are easily distinguished from any other warblers; the shell is olive-gray thickly covered with fine black specks, sometimes al-

most obscuring the ground color. I found my first nest June 12, 1897, in the Huachuca Mountains at an elevation of about 9400 feet. The nest was placed in a red fir tree in the fork of a large limb, about thirty feet up and was well hidden by the surrounding foliage. The bird was away from the nest when I found it and did not make her appearance until I had three of her well incubated eggs in my mouth and was reaching for the fourth. I cut off a portion of the limb with the nest and made my way to the ground. After

the male and the female are very much alike. Another nest found June 18, 1898, was placed near the extremity of a long slender limb in a yellow pine about fifty feet up. I watched the bird for fully half an hour before finding the nest and it was only with great difficulty and risk that I secured the set of three slightly incubated eggs. The nest was surrounded by pine needles and it could not be seen even from the tree in which it was situated until I was within three or four feet of it. The bird sat very close and did not leave



NESTS OF THE OLIVE WARBLER.

Collected by O. W. Howard.

packing my treasures, which I was more than delighted over, I secured the female with a charge of dust shot and made haste for camp.

On June 15, 1898, I found a nest with young almost ready to fly. The nest was placed in a sugar pine near the extremity of a limb and about thirty feet from the ground; elevation about 9000 feet. The female was on the nest and as soon as I climbed the tree she uttered a note of distress which soon brought the male to the scene, where he joined her complaint. The notes of

the nest until I had cut off the limb on which it was placed and then she hopped about within four or five feet of me. The male was also near by and both birds kept up the usual note of alarm. The nest is a beauty, being covered with a wide brown material supposed to be bits of fur blossoms and is lined with fine rootlets.

On June 24, 1898, accompanied by a young assistant, I left camp before sunrise as I had several nests to examine four or five miles distant, and being anxious to reach my destination we just

hit the high places along the way. It was a beautiful, clear morning and we had a magnificent view of the country as our trail led along the summits of the mountains for some distance. We could see one hundred miles in any direction, with Mexico on one side of us and the United States on the other. Mountain ranges seventy five miles away did not seem more than twenty-five. After walking for an hour or so we came to my first nest, a Grace's Warbler, together with which I secured a fine set of three slightly incubated eggs and the parent bird. After packing the eggs and the bird we went on until I found a nest of Coues' Flycatcher from which we secured a fine set of four eggs. Next came an Audubon's Warbler's nest which I had found building the week before. It was situated near the end of a long branch in the top of a red fir tree about sixty feet up. While trying to secure this nest I heard an Olive Warbler not far off and soon after I observed a fine male in the branches above my head.

While watching him the female made her appearance and soon after went to

her nest which was placed on a large limb of the same tree and not far from the trunk. It was quite a temptation to examine this nest first, but as I had already tied the rope from the limb which held the Audubon's nest to the main trunk above, I thought I had better finish the job, so I crawled out on the limb and with one hand on the rope I reached out for the eggs with the other, but just as my fingers touched the nest the limb broke off short between myself and the trunk and left me hanging by the rope. I lost the set of Audubon's Warbler and came near losing my life with them, but I managed to get back to the trunk of the tree all right and a few minutes later I had forgotten all about it, as I reached out and took the four perfectly fresh Olive Warbler's eggs from the nest above, one by one. I also secured the female and the nest with a large piece of the limb. I know of only one other set, besides those taken by myself, which was taken, I believe, by Mr. Price of Stanford University some years ago and which is now in the Smithsonian Institution.

SONORA YELLOW WARBLER.

I found this variety, or rather subspecies, along the San Pedro River, near the Mexican Line and also near Tucson, but had a better chance to observe them along the San Pedro, where I found several nests placed in willow

and mesquite trees, generally in upright forks from ten to twenty-five feet up. The nests are very much like those of the Yellow Warbler, likewise the eggs. All the nests I found contained two eggs of the Dwarf Cowbird

GRACE'S WARBLER.

Grace's Warbler is equally as rare, if not more so, than the Olive. During three seasons' collecting in the mountains of Southern Arizona I have seen only four or five of these birds, two of which had nests. They are very shy and, like the Olive, keep well up in the pines in the thick foliage, except when they have a nest and then they become quite bold. While walking along the summit of a ridge one morning about the middle of June, I came to a likely looking pine and began to look through it for general results. After stretching my neck for several minutes I spied a single straw protruding from a thick bunch of pine needles. This aroused

quite a little suspicion in my mind so I laid down my climbers, collecting-box and gun and tried to look into the bunch of needles, looking from all directions, but could not see any other signs of a nest. I could have easily climbed up and made sure, but it was soon after breakfast, and I knew that I would have a great amount of climbing to do later on that day, so I picked up my traps and moved on, but had only gone a short distance when I noticed a Grace's Warbler hopping about in a bush. While I stood watching, it flew to the ground and picked up some fine straws and carried them to the bunch of pine-needles, out of which I had

seen the straw protruding. Needless to say, I was much pleased with my find. I did not go near this nest again for fear the birds might leave, but called around again on the 27th of the same month, and after a little trouble, secured the nest with a good sized piece of the limb, and a fine set of three eggs and the parent bird.

straws and vegetable fibres, and was lined with a few hairs. The eggs are pure white, lightly speckled with reddish brown. I found another nest building in a red fir tree. It was placed in a thick bunch of leaves, at the extremity of a limb about fifty feet from the ground. I watched the bird building for at least a half hour and do



NESTS OF AUDUBON'S AND GRACE'S WARBLER.

(GRACE'S WARBLER TO THE RIGHT.)

The nest was placed deep down in the middle of a large bunch of pine needles and was entirely hidden from view. I handed the limb to my assistant, who examined it closely for a minute or two, and then asked me where the nest was. He was much surprised when I told him that he held it in his hand. The nest was composed of fine

not remember of ever having seen a bird work more rapidly. She carried material to the nest at least once a minute and kept this up from the time that I began to watch her until I left. I was obliged to leave the nest, being out on a vacation and my time nearly up, so consequently I had to return.

(To be continued.)

• • • • •

SEVERAL Cooper Club members will spend a portion of June in the high Sierra of El Dorado Co., Cal., where they will hope to make some interesting takes in the line of Hermit Warblers, Western Evening Grosbeak, Calaveras Warbler etc. The personnel of the party as at present arranged will

consist of Lyman Belding of Stockton, Henry W. Carriger of Sonoma, John M. Welch of Copperopolis, H. R. Taylor of Alameda, C. Barlow of Santa Clara and Loren E. Taylor of Fyffe. Work will be done about Pyramid Peak and operations confined chiefly to the higher altitudes.

Spring Notes on the Birds of Santa Cruz Island, Cal., April, 1898.

BY JOS. MAILLIARD, SAN GERONIMO, CAL.

SANTA CRUZ Island is a long, narrow mountainous island lying south of Santa Barbara and distant 21 miles from the nearest mainland. Its length is 25 miles and its width varies from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 miles. The coast line is exceedingly irregular and precipitous, with very few portions of the actual shore accessible from the land side. The island is very rough and jagged, principally volcanic with ranges of hills and rocks in every direction, attaining in places an elevation of over 2,000 feet. It is broken by many canons, most of which are deep and the sides almost invariably steep. In spite of the heavy backbone of volcanic rock, quite a large proportion of the island is composed of grass and brush land, there being large open areas of grass and thousands of acres of impenetrable chaparral, together with great tracts of sage brush, sometimes intermingled with cactus. In places are numerous live oaks, varying in size from scrub oaks to noble trees. The open portions contained but few birds and most of the specimens collected were obtained by crawling up the bottoms of canons containing a little water, keeping a sharp lookout for cactus, into which birds when shot would often most exasperatingly roll. In regard to this vegetable abomination, while it exists only in certain areas it really seemed as if there were not a spot on the whole island where one could put a hand on the ground, kneel or fall down, without coming in contact with a piece of the stuff which had been rolled, blown or been carried there.

The first place visited was Scorpion Harbor on April 5, 1898, a small cove on the east end of the island. This little bay is the mouth of a narrow valley some miles in length, but which becomes in reality only a rocky canon about a mile and a half back from the shore. The ranch buildings—old adobes mostly—are situated 200 yards from the little beach at a point where the rocky hills appeared to almost close together, the valley widening immediately back

of them. There seemed to be a sort of "draw" at this spot and the wind howled most of the time night and day. The landing was made about four o'clock in the afternoon and the first birds seen were House Finches and Rock Wrens (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis?* and *Salpinctes obsoletus*) quantities of the former, and quite a number of the latter singing most musically from the rocky sides of the gorge.

On the way over from Santa Barbara no sea birds were seen except a few Shearwaters, Western Gulls and some Cormorants, with an occasional Scoter. About a mile east of Scorpion Harbor is a large square-looking rock near the shore which is evidently a breeding place for the Gulls and Cormorants. The country within a mile or two of this harbor is mostly grass land, with little or no brush and but few trees, cut up by many canons and gullies with exceedingly steep sides. The tops of the adjacent hills and some of the more rolling slopes were the abiding places at this time of numerous Island Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris insularis*), some thirty of which were captured. From the fact that some of these birds contained eggs almost ready to be laid it was evident that they were nesting, but hours of patient search failed to reveal a nest. The birds would flush from small hollows, from the shadows of small rocks, tufts of grass, sides of trails etc., but no sign of a nest could be found. After most carefully exploring three localities in the neighborhood where the birds were very numerous, without success, I came to the conclusion that their feeding and nesting grounds were not the same, and the latter remained undiscovered.

Many Intermediate Sparrows (*Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*) frequented the corrals and yards, but were mostly in a sadly moulted plumage, preparing for their spring migration. Some groves of eucalyptus trees planted further up the valley were the dwelling place of quite a number of birds common to

the mainland, such as Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus alleni*), Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Spinus lawrenci*), Arkansas Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), Western Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis arizonæ*), Western Flycatcher [which has been separated into a new species by Oberholser in the *Auk*, Vol. XIV, No. 3, July, 1897, and designated as *Empidonax insulicola*. This has not yet been allowed by the A. O. U. Committee. It was commonly heard on the island, but during my stay was very shy and seldom seen] and two pairs of Shrikes, one of which was building, while the other was already occupying a nest. This latter was inaccessible in a tall slim gum sapling and the bird would always slip off and disappear among the trees before more than a glimpse of it could be had. This Shrike has been separated by Mearns and stands in the list as *Lanius ludovicianus anthonyi*, Island Shrike, the type being taken from the Santa Cruz Island.

Naturally enough a sight of the Santa Cruz Jay (*Aphelocoma insularis*) was eagerly desired, but it was some days before one was seen. There were no Jays within a mile or two of this harbor but some were found where the first brush commenced on the steep hillsides toward the head of Scorpion Canon. In fact they were quite numerous among the brushy hills but were very difficult to approach, more from the nature of the ground than from their wariness, though they were here comparatively shy. Their harsh notes could be heard on all sides among the bushes, but seldom near enough to shoot. Two were taken at last in the canon, but all the rest that fell to my lot were captured at Laplaya. The notes of this Jay are much harsher than those of the California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), the screech being more like that of *Cyanocitta stelleri* and the bird much larger and of brighter and deeper plumage.

At the head of this canon an occasional Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus oregonus*) or a closely allied form, was heard and one taken, but they were exceedingly wild and difficult to obtain. Scattered all through the cactus, among the vol-

canic rocks in this part of the island, were numbers of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) singing most melodiously, while an allied form of Vigor's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii spilurus*) could be heard piping away every few yards. This wren has been separated also by Oberholser but as yet provisionally. These birds were also very difficult to obtain as they mostly frequented the very steep rocks among the cactus and when a specimen was shot at it was usually impossible to find it and often even to reach the spot where it fell. In fact only a few were taken, as at least two-thirds of those killed were not recovered. A few Dusky Warblers (*Helminthophila celata sordida*) were found in this part of the canon and several taken. Their note is much longer and stronger than that of the Lutescent Warbler (*H. c. lutescens*) and has two more and louder notes at the end of the trill. The song of *Thryomanes* seemed to be also different from that of *T. bewickii spilurus*, for while the latter has quite a variety of actual songs, the Santa Cruz Island species has only one and this sounded somewhat unfamiliar.

While prospecting among the rocks an occasional Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) would swoop down near one though seldom within shot. In fact the only shot I could have taken was in a place so rough and so far from headquarters that it would have been a difficult undertaking to carry the bird in and its life was spared. A week was spent in prospecting and exploring around Scorpion Harbor and on April 12 the move was made for Laplaya, or the main ranch. There being no wagon road the trip was made on horseback, the baggage going by schooner. Owing to adverse winds the latter did not show up at Prisoner's Harbor for three days, a rather unpleasant contingency. As it was to be a long, rough and hot ride—100° in the shade—even the gun was sent by schooner. However nothing was seen in the four hours' ride that was to be regretted, and in fact very few birds of any kind were to be found on the tops of the ranges. The trail led over and along the backbone of the island which in that part attains an elevation of 2,000 feet, with the sea

hardly half a mile away on either side, with San Nicholas and Santa Barbara Islands in plain view in the distance. In some spots a stumble would have meant a sudden and permanent loss of interest in ornithological affairs, to put it mildly.

The main ranch, or Laplaya, is situated in a pleasant valley three miles north of Prisoner's Harbor, being connected with it by a wagon road along the bottom of the creek. The buildings face a magnificent range of volcanic mountains which are broken and rugged in the extreme. At this place birds were more numerous than at any other spot on the island. Here in the creek bottom were groves of very fine live-oaks with a small stream of water running through them, and many birds came down from the almost perpendicular hillsides to feed and drink here. Back of the buildings a range of impenetrable chaparral extended for miles, with here and there a trail cut through for driving sheep. This range is so steep and brushy that even with twenty experienced vaqueros only about one-half of the sheep occupying it are ever shorn and there are thousands of these animals roaming around with one, two or three years' fleeces on their backs, their long tails flapping behind them as they run, in a most comical manner. In this chaparral birds were very scarce, but along the edges were many Jays and a few Bush Tits, Dusky Warblers, Western Chipping Sparrows and Oregon ? Towhees, these latter so wild as to be unapproachable. Among the liveoaks, however, birds were numerous and an early morning tramp with a good deal of patience thrown in would generally be rewarded, though a dozen birds actually in one's hand by ten o'clock would be a pretty fair record, as it was not only difficult to get shots at what one wanted but also frequently more difficult to retrieve the game.

Dusky Warblers, Vigor's ? Wrens and many of the commoner birds already mentioned could be heard and often seen along the steep sides of the canon and to a certain extent among the big trees in the bottom also. In these thick live-oaks it was very hard

to get shots at the small birds and many dropped only to lodge in some indiscernable or inaccessible bunch of leaves. In this locality the Santa Cruz Jay was very abundant and bold. Many were shot with the auxiliary barrel, being too close to use a larger charge. In some particular trees these birds would at times be very numerous, flying singly, by twos or threes, and then again hours might pass without a Jay being seen. Every accessible bush and tree within two or three miles of Laplaya was carefully searched for their nests, but, while many old ones were discovered, only five were found occupied. Two of these contained eggs, one set of three eggs and one set of four; two contained young, two fledglings in one nest and three in the other, while the fifth nest was placed near the end of a long slim branch of a large live-oak, with no means of reaching it. From the small proportion of new nests to old ones discovered, it would seem that either the birds were not breeding to any extent this year on account of the severe drouth perhaps, or else nests when once built must last in that locality about 100 years before disintegrating.

The Dusky Warblers and Vigor's ? Wrens were evidently breeding everywhere, but no nests were found and it is a mystery where the former found a place to build, as the sheep had cut everything clean from off the ground and as high up as they could reach on the bushes during the rainless spring. There did not seem to be any protected spots on the ground where these birds could hide their nests in security among low vines or ferns as is their usual custom. Occasional flocks of White-throated Swifts (*Aeronautes melanoleucus*) would descend from their homes in the mountain fastnesses and circle high in air over Laplaya, but only one specimen was obtained and their breeding place remained undiscovered. Shrikes were numerous in this vicinity and contrary to the evidence given in the July *Auk*, were not really wild. A few were lost by my not using a sufficiently heavy charge in my desire to preserve the plumage as intact as possible, but many of the specimens shot fell in to the large piles of dead brush which

they frequented extensively. On one of these brush piles three were bowled over at one shot and not one recovered. This pile was about six feet high and thirty feet across, the birds being in the center when fired at. While trying to find them, a nest of seven eggs was discovered and taken, but the birds had slipped down irretrievably. They must have been having some sort of a row over this nest when shot. Another nest containing six eggs of this species was taken and one or two found which were not completed when I left.

Song Sparrows, recently identified as *Melospiza fasciata graminea*, were frequently heard around the vegetable garden at Laplaya and often seen. This garden was surrounded by a very thick trimmed hedge of cypress which was the abiding place of these birds. A singular feature in connection with this sparrow was the fact that although shot as soon as they appeared in this garden, there would be two or three more in a day or so, and yet none were found anywhere else in the vicinity or on the whole island, except on a small creek some seven or eight miles from Laplaya, where one or two were seen. I was especially desirous of obtaining a number of specimens of the Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus* ——) of the island, but they were too wild and wary. Only one pair were taken.

Some species of birds that one would naturally expect to find here were absent, such as Bluebirds, Chickadees, Wren Tits, Thrashers and Brown Towhees. No Owls or Woodpeckers, excepting Flickers, were seen or heard, nor had even the oldest inhabitant any knowledge of the presence of an Owl on the island, by sight or hearing. There was evidence that the island was visited, probably in winter, by some species of Sapsucker. Hutton's? Vireos were found in places among the live-oaks and several were taken. Their notes and habits were the same as those found on the mainland but they differed slightly from *Vireo huttoni* in shading and, average measurements. House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) were exceedingly numerous in some localities, but with the exception of the flocks congregated about the buildings,

were rather shy. Some were nesting in the vines around the house and barns but no completed nest was found by May 1. Mearns's description of a House Finch from the Santa Barbara Islands in the *Auk* (XV, July, 1898) includes some specimens from Santa Cruz Island. This has been acted upon favorably by the A. O. U. Committee and designated as *Carpodacus mexicanus clementis*. I took a number of House Finches in different parts of the island but found absolutely nothing that could not be matched in our collection from the mainland or in that of the California Academy of Sciences. Hence, if *C. m. clementis* is a resident of, or even a migrant to Santa Cruz Island, it must be of rare occurrence there and the *C. m. frontalis* which is so much in evidence must migrate in large numbers from the mainland to breed.

Three Western Blue Grosbeaks (*Guiraca caerulea lazula*) were found just back of the house in some sage brush on the day before I left the island, Apr. 30, and two males were taken. They must have recently arrived but whether they were migrating through or had come to breed is a matter of conjecture. No females were seen. In the grain fields on the top of a high mesa, one side of which was washed by the sea hundreds of feet below, some small sparrows were observed, but it was impossible to capture one as they were unusually shy. They would flush at a long distance, fly into the grass on the unplowed portions and then run so that they could not be marked. They probably belonged to the *Ammodramus* group, though they seemed even smaller than any of this group with which I am at all familiar.

Following is a list of birds observed during my stay:— *Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); *Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*); *Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*); *Western Redtail, (*Buteo borealis calurus*); *Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*); *Desert Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius deserticolus*); Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer*); *Vaux Swift (*Chaetura vauuxii*); White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes melanoleucus*); Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*); Allen's Hummingbird (*Selas-*

phorus alleni); Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*); Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*); Western ? Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*); Island Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris insularis*); Santa Cruz Jay (*Aphelocoma insularis*); American Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*); Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna neglecta*); *Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*); House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*); Arkansas Goldfinch (*Astragalinus psaltria*); Lawrence's Goldfinch (*Astragalinus lawrenci*); * ? Sparrow (*Ammodramus ?*); Intermediate Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys intermedia*); Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia coronata*); Western Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis arizonæ*); Oregon Junco (*Junco hiemalis oregonus*); Santa Barbara Song Sparrow (*Melospiza fasciata graminea*); Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*); Oregon Towhee (*Pipilo maculatus oregonus*); Black-headed Grosbeak (*Habia melanocephala*);

Western Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea lazula*); Lazuli Bunting (*Cyanospiza amana*); *Barn Swallow (*Hirundo erythrogaster*); Island Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus anthonyi*); Hutton's ? Vireo (*Vireo huttoni ?*); Dusky Warbler (*Helminthophila celata sordida*); Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni*); Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*); Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*); Vigor's ? Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii spilurus*); Californian Bush Tit (*Psaltia minimus californicus*); *Dwarf Hermit Thrush [*Hylocichla aonalaschke*].

The species marked with an asterisk were seen but not taken. Those with an interrogation mark have been described but not yet separated by the A. O. U. Committee.

(Extract from a paper read before the Ornithological Section of the California Academy of Sciences, with some additions and alterations.)

A Successful Day with the Duck Hawks.

BY HENRY C. JOHNSON, AMERICAN FORK, UTAH.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, May 6, 1899.]

DURING May 1898 I happened to be riding among the foothills of the West Mountains in Utah, when, in circling the base of a precipitous cliff some eighty feet in height, a hawk of some kind suddenly launched into the air from a projecting point of rock. My friend pulled up his horse with the exclamation, "Duck Hawks!" A moment later we had tied the animals and flushed the female from her nest. Such an outcry did the old birds make and such a scramble did I have to reach the nest, as the face of the cliff was perpendicular and the trap rock was dangerously insecure for a foothold. Looking over the top of the ledge I saw three youngsters huddled together in a shallow cave under the over-hanging rock. This was enough and we left the locality with a mental memorandum that the nest would not be neglected by us in '99.

Thus it happened that Rollin and the writer might have been observed leaving town on two good mountain ponies on the 30th of March last. In circling Utah Lake we passed ponds on which were a goodly number of ducks of vari-

ous species and Long-billed Curlew wading around after food. But Ducks and Curlew had no temptations for us on this particular day. When in sight of the ledge I pointed it out to Rollin who was making his first trip to the locality. He remarked: "Pshaw, is that your great cliff: I will jump from the top when we get there." I advised him to remember that the altitude makes a slight difference in the appearance of objects. Another hour of steady climbing and we neared the foot of the precipice, where Rollin postponed his jump as he did not think it possible to reach the top of the cliff!

No birds were visible but we tied up the horses and a stone thrown from where we stood, brought the female off the nest. The male also jumped from a projecting rock and we were greatly interested in watching the birds. They had the ability of remaining apparently stationary in mid-air without flapping their wings. Suddenly, however, one or the other would make a dash for us, just missing one's head in passing; no wonder, we thought, were they locally known as "Bullet Hawks." Rollin

made the ascent and reported five fine eggs. Of course they had to be unpacked again when he got safely down and to us they looked much handsomer than they ever would in a large series, to the owner of which they would simply be known as a dark typical set. The eggs were laid in a little shallow

on the ledge, without a straw near them and no nest was constructed. Again on horseback we plodded the weary miles homeward, with the crickets and frogs piping a march to which the Bittern furnished bass and of which the whistle of Wilson's Snipe overhead was treble.

Winter Birds of Shanghai.

BY MILTON S. RAY, SAN FRANCISCO.

[Read before the Northern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, May 6, 1899.]

AFTER leaving Japan in February, 1898, at a season when birds were by no means numerous, I was surprised on arriving at Shanghai at the abundance of bird life. Along the Whang-Poo River, on which Shanghai is situated, water and marsh birds were almost as common as land birds are about the city. Excepting the Tree Sparrow [*Passer montinus*] the Magpie [*Pica caudata*] or Rice-bird as it is called is the most numerous, and although the trees were yet bare, I observed several nests completed and a large number building. These nests were so common that scarcely a group of trees but contained one or more.

Along the muddy river the Black Kite [*Milvus ater*] was plentiful. A common sight is a dozen or more of these large birds resting between their day's labor on the cross cable or spring stay of the ships about the harbor. I observed one of these birds with a Tree Sparrow in its claws which it pulled apart as it flew along.

A bird of interest is the Ringed Crow. It is an odd looking bird with a broad white ring running around the neck and down across the breast. At times large flocks of Rooks, with a sprinkling of Crows, assemble in the grassy interior of the race-course in search of worms. The Crows are made conspicuous by their size and peculiar markings. Bubbling Well Road is the principal thoroughfare of the residence portion of the English settlement. Here in the large gardens, birds are very common. One morning as I was walking along this road, by a small stream, I came upon a pair of Eastern Kingfishers [*Alcedo insipida bengalensis*] I had hardly time to examine them closely when the one

nearest me plunged almost perpendicularly into the water and emerged in a moment with a small minnow. This bird has beautiful dark blue wings and a rich chestnut breast. Further on I noticed on the lawn of a garden a pair of Masked Hawfinches in company with blackbirds, thrushes and pipits. These were the only Hawfinches I saw during my stay and was informed they are quite rare.

Passing on, my attention was attracted by a large flock of doves [*Turtus chinensis*] which so closely resembled our own Mourning Dove that from a distance they were indistinguishable. This dove has a white mottled patch on its neck and the tail is broadly tipped with white. Returning, a bright colored Titmouse flitted across the road and then a large Flycatcher left his perch in pursuit of an insect and I felt sad to think I would have to leave this rich field so soon. No doubt the abundance of bird life is accounted for by the protection they receive from the Chinese, whose religion prevents their wanton destruction. In Japan however it is just the opposite. I noticed in a Japanese taxidermist's more than 100 skins of the beautiful Kingfisher and an equal number of the brilliantly colored Wag-tails, beside a horde of Finches, Thrushes and larger birds. Of what use such large numbers of skins can be is a mystery to me. Aside from the wild birds, the bird stores of Old Shanghai are worthy of notice. Here thousands of birds—Canaries, Finches, Thrushes, Parrots, etc., are crowded in small wooden cages and the varied concert midst the squalor of a native Chinese city is a sight not easily forgotten.

IS THE UNLIMITED COLLECTING OF
BIRDS IN BREEDING SEASON
JUSTIFIED?

A COMMUNICATION.

To My Fellow Ornithologists:—

Realizing fully that in condemning a practice which, by reason of its having been followed by many of our best ornithologists, has assumed to many the garb of propriety, I am inviting criticism and perhaps caustic criticism at that, I lay before you a matter which has impressed itself upon me for three seasons past. What I have seen of bird slaughter (and it can be known by no other name) has placed me as unalterably opposed to collecting large numbers of birds during the breeding season. It is not my wish to attempt to arouse a senseless sympathy, such as has cropped out in too many of our magazines of late, with scarcely a fact to justify it in many cases. I have kindly feelings for those of the Audubonians who are working for bird protection in a practical way, but none whatever for those who rant and criticise the current journals because they print the bird news. The theorists are all right but as useless as the fifth wheel of a coach, so long as their theories are unexecuted, save on paper. I hope to be understood as not adding another to the already long list of empty pleas with which we have been afflicted of late.

The science of ornithology demands the collecting of any reasonable number of birds to further its ends, and personally I have taken the lives of birds with as much zeal as any, when the skins were desired for actual use. Furthermore I have always been a devotee of the gun rather than the opera glass in collecting, and am at the present time a recruit in what Dr. Coues has termed the "shot-gun wing" of the ornithological army. Therefore I may presume to write without prejudice against unnecessary bird slaughter. It seems but humane that where unusual numbers of skins are collected that the time should be during the spring and fall migrations or else in winter or early summer. No sane ornithologist can condemn the shooting of one or both parents to an occasional nest, if they be desired for identification or for the collection,

but it would be needless, nor is it practiced, often. To such a status it would seem that extremists in both directions might agree.

My first insight into bird slaughter in the name of science was in 1896 during my stay in the Sierras of El Dorado Co., Cal. Two well known Californian workers were touring the emigrant road, having been sent out by a third ornithologist, and were allowed ten or fifteen cents per skin for such of the take as he could use. This was, of course, an incentive to collect everything in sight, which I must say, regretfully, was done. Each day these collectors roamed the woods and hills and every bird which had the confidence to present itself to view, paid for its temerity with its life. In the Sierras many species are typical, such as *Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*, and others which are not hoped to show any perceptible variation. Yet in 1896 species such as Cassin's Vireo, Spurred Towhee, various warblers etc. were collected without limit, as many as thirty to fifty of some being taken. Most of these were not collected for the personal use or study of either of the three interested parties, but to be sold for a paltry sum, if indeed at all, for after the trip over rough mountain roads and being packed away when "green" for weeks, many of the skins were poor and misshapen. This was the first slaughter in the name of science which I witnessed. Perhaps 500 or 600 birds had been taken from their haunts in breeding time, the collectors had unquestionably done much hard work in warm weather, while their return was very moderate financially. Doubtless they saw and learned much of nature and the birds, as both were active workers in the field, but the glory of their season's work has upon it a blot in the shape of unwarranted bird slaughter.

In 1897 another prominent Californian made an extended trip over the Lake Tahoe road of El Dorado County through the Sierras. He was accompanied at first by one and later by several assistants. This gentleman I count as a personal friend and a thoroughly able naturalist, who has the charm of enlivening camp life which few possess, and far be it from me to criticise his good nature or to disparage the value of his scientific work. But he waged the same heartless war-fare against the birds all through the summer and I will not venture to say how many birds were numbered in his collection when he left the Sierras, but certain it is that the number was in excess of all requirements or reason.

There are species little known, such as the Californian Pine Grosbeak and some others in the Sierras which no collector could be criticised for collecting on sight, but this idea of making a daily killing, shooting everything in sight be it sparrow, warbler, flycatcher, woodpecker or what not, simply to swell the number of skins of the season's work is gory and not compatible with the ideas which a conscientious ornithologist should hold. Many of these birds will never be used for comparison, for the reason that the plumages are constant as a rule in this zone, and many too common to be classed as desirable, will bring only a paltry price when sold. And I ask if it is not a very serious question whether any ornithologist may collect in such a wholesale and random manner and call it science?

Some may contend that only a comparatively small area of the country was worked over, but this does not alter the principle at all. I base my whole criticism on the proposition that if wholesale collecting is wrong, it is *doubly so* in the breeding season! It was during this time that most of this work was done. All the species were nesting and had either eggs or young, but no attention was paid to this as a rule. Birds were shot anywhere and everywhere without so much as a thought for the welfare of the nestlings and who can say how many young birds thus deprived of one or both parents died from starvation or exposure? This is not an overdrawn picture but what Mr. Carriger, myself and others witnessed daily for almost two weeks, and it went on for several months.

One ornithologist? F. M. Nutting, who was in the party, found the nest of a Pileated Woodpecker in a pine stub, containing young, and promptly shot one parent. This he brought to our camp one Sunday afternoon, evidently proud of his prowess at having stalled a bird which had perhaps lost its fear through duty to its young, and remarked that he should shoot the other bird when he went back! What a damnable sense of decency, let alone humaneness! I ask should such irresponsible beings be permitted to roam the woods, with no more perception of conscience than to commit such brutalities? It was an outrage which I know was not sanctioned by his principal.

The ornithologist should be the birds' best protector, even though he must at times shoot them for study, but what shall we say when he goes among them in nesting time, shooting

indiscriminately and leaving the young to perish? Every naturalist owes it to science to protect the natural beauties with which the Creator has blessed the earth, and how can the collector, with never a twinge of conscience, quiet the sweet voices of the woodland in a fashion little less than barbarous, for pecuniary gain? I may be called a "sentimentalist" as a reward for these words, and if so I accept the charge willingly. Well may the man blush who has no sentiment or consideration for bird life when he is in the midst of it; he lacks the higher aspirations of the true naturalist.

In the fall of 1897 large numbers of juvenile Hermit Warblers were taken, amounting in number if I remember correctly to about 100. While the plumages may have been interesting such a series as this was scarcely justified, and I question if it could be attributed to legitimate science. I have painted the picture of bird destruction as I saw and know of it, and totally without personal feeling. That this letter will have the effect of preventing such collecting in the future I have no hope, but if it be the means of drawing a response from those I have criticised or of calling forth the support of others, my object is accomplished. One of the primary inducements of these expeditions is to secure collections of skins to sell, and upon this hinges all the wrong.

In speaking with a well known ornithologist recently, and while talking of bird slaughter, he was frank enough to tell me that he "collected for what was in it." I admired his frankness and respect him for admitting the point without argument. And how shall we meet such frank admission of wrong, if wrong it be? Better that a restrictive law be enacted, even though it inconvenience all, than for such unwarranted destruction go on. Without any attempt at embellishing these facts with sentiment or satire, in both of which my pen might but crudely serve me, I invite open letters on the subject. We shall be glad to hear any Californian plead justification with sincerity, if he has collected in this manner, and the BULLETIN will be open to all with impartiality who wish to further discuss this question. I believe firmly that the making of large collections during the breeding season should be prohibited, and that the mercenary part of it should be severely condemned.

C. BARLOW.

Breeding Habits of the Least Tern in Los Angeles County, California.

BY A. I. MCCORMICK.

[Read before the Southern Division of the Cooper Orn. Club, March 26, 1898.]

THE beaches of this county, from Santa Monica southward, afford excellent breeding grounds for numberless birds of this species. The coast consists mainly of low sandy beaches, extending back 100 to 200 feet from the water's edge. Back of the beach proper come low sandhills, interspersed with small valleys, and farthest from the ocean are the higher lands, covered with a thick growth of low sage and other shrubs, about 200 feet from the water's edge. Water on the one side and sage brush on the other mark the boundaries of the nesting grounds of Least Terns, most of which last year [1897] arrived from the south about May 10th. For ten days they remained flying high over the sea, seldom if ever coming within gunshot range. My first trip to the beach was made on May 25th, in expectation of collecting eggs of the Snowy Plover, not expecting to find the Terns breeding. Consequently I was surprised on entering the colony, to see numbers of Terns flying wildly about, uttering their shrill notes, indicating that nesting had commenced. The result of information thus conveyed was that my friend and myself at once began to search for their eggs.

So successful were our efforts that during the day we collected twenty sets of two eggs each. The first set taken was in a mere depression in plain sand, about two inches deep and four inches wide, 100 feet from the water's edge. This description answers for the average of all sets taken on this trip—the distance of the nests from the water varying from 75 to 600 feet. Set No. 2 was taken from a hollow in the center of a bed of gravel, lined with small fragments of white shells upon which the eggs were laid. This is quite common with the Snowy Plover, but exceptional with Least Terns.

My second and last trip to the beach was made on June 5, when I was fortunate enough to take fifteen sets of Least Tern's eggs. Six of them consisted of three eggs each. This is ex-

ceptional in this county. I have consulted several collectors who have had considerable experience with Least Terns in this locality, and with one or two exceptions two eggs has been the invariable complement found. Several other sets of three were taken in 1897. In all I took 25 sets last season, but could easily have doubled that number had I desired to do so. On each trip we left many nests containing one egg, and many new depressions ready to receive eggs.

All the eggs collected on the first trip were fresh, but many of those taken in June were much incubated. The Terns nest in colonies in common with Snowy Plovers, with eggs of which those of the Terns are often confounded. But upon close examination they can be easily distinguished; those of the Terns are more nearly oval, and the small end of the Plover's egg comes to a sharper point.

The ground color of the eggs of the Tern is lighter than that of the Snowy Plover's. The spots on the Plover eggs appear like scratches, while in the case of the Tern, the spots are more symmetrical and rounder, and harmonize better with the ground color.

The habits of the two birds during the nesting season are quite different. On one's entering the Tern colony, all the birds at once rise and fly swiftly about overhead, often darting at the intruder within a few inches of his head. They are the most pugnacious and saucy birds that I have yet met during nesting time. The female Snowy Plover often waits until one is within a few feet of the nest before she leaves it, and when she does hop off is generally unobserved. This Plover is a very quiet, unobtrusive bird, in fact, one might tread the beach for hours in the midst of these birds and not know of their presence unless particular pains were taken to ascertain it. Instead of rising from the ground and flying overhead like the Terns, on the approach of a person they run along the sand a few

hundred feet, remain motionless for a short time, and then run on again. Their nests are almost invariably situated by the side of a stone, stick or some other object unlike the surroundings; this only occasionally happens with the Terns. The Plovers prefer to be as close to the water as possible, while the Terns are about evenly dis-

tributed back to the sage brush. Neither of the two species are so numerous as in former times on the coast of this county. Eggs of the Least Tern have been taken as late as July, but on the 30th no Terns were to be seen at Santa Monica, all having, I suppose, gone southward.

Capture of a Rabbit by a Golden Eagle.

BY WM. L. ATKINSON, SANTA CLARA, CAL.

BEFORE I begin my narrative perhaps it would be well to state that I live on a fruit farm, three and one-half miles west of Santa Clara. At the back of, and adjoining the orchard is an open field containing about sixty-five acres. One warm morning in August, 1894, I was working in the orchard

field. He was at this time in the center of the field, and about 200 yards from the fence, toward which he was running.

The Eagles circled above him, at a height of about thirty feet; first one of them would swoop down at the rabbit and then the other; but the result was



Drawn by Miss Charlotte Bray, Santa Clara, Cal., from a description.

near the back fence when, glancing up, I beheld two large birds circling and swooping at some object in the grain field. A second glance and I knew that the birds were Golden Eagles. Hastening to the fence I saw that the Eagles were endeavoring to catch a rabbit which was running across the

always the same, for the rabbit was quick enough to dodge just as the birds struck at him. The chase was now nearing the fence, and it seemed that if the rabbit could succeed in reaching it, he could, by dodging around among the trees, baffle his pursuers. The Eagles seemed to know this also for,

when within fifty yards of the fence, the larger one of the two swooped down at the rabbit, and when he dodged the Eagle pursued him, flying at a height of about three feet above the ground. The rabbit redoubled his speed and made straight for the fence, the Eagle following and both doing their best; the one fleeing for his life, the other pursuing to satisfy the cravings of an empty stomach.

This unequal race was kept up until the fence was reached, the Eagle having gained until she was but two or three feet behind the rabbit. When the rabbit passed through the fence, I expected to see the Eagle give up the pursuit, but she had no intention of doing so, for without slacking her speed she raised herself just enough to clear the fence, and, dropping down behind the rabbit, continued as before. Still I thought that he had a good chance to escape, for he had gained a little ground in passing through the fence, but instead of dodging around through the trees, which is something the rabbit always does, when pursued by dogs, he was so crazed with fear that he ran in

a straight line down through the orchard.

The velocity with which the Eagle flew at this stage of the chase was something wonderful. Fast as the rabbit ran, the "great black shadow" behind him drew nearer and nearer, until, poising an instant over its victim, the Eagle pounced upon him. A short struggle, a cry or two from the rabbit, and all was still. I hastily ran toward the spot, and had approached nearly to the Eagle when it took wing and joined its mate, which was wheeling around above me. After a few turns they mounted up into the heavens and in a short time disappeared.

The rabbit was a large "Jack," and was in a perfectly healthy condition. A row of deep gashes on either side of the backbone marked the spot where the Eagle had struck him with its talons, and his head was almost severed from the body, the throat being cut almost as cleanly as could have been done with a knife. The gash extended from the jaw bone on one side of the neck, to the ear on the other.

Echoes from the Field.

The Old-Squaw and Fulvous Tree Ducks at Alviso, Cal. During the first week in February of this year I received from Alviso, in this [Santa Clara] county, a specimen of the Long-tailed Duck or Old-Squaw, a female in winter plumage. So far as I know this is the first instance of this species being taken in this county, nor am I aware that it has ever been reported from any point on San Francisco Bay.

I have seen at the house of a friend in San Jose a Fulvous Tree Duck, also taken at Alviso several years ago. I believe that this species has not been recorded from this county before and is, at any rate, a rare visitor here.

F. H. HOLMES, Berryessa, Cal., April 15, 1899.

A Record for Los Angeles County, Cal. I have to report an addition to Mr. Grinnell's "List of Birds of the Pacific Slope of Los Angeles Co.," having taken four males and two females of *Loxia curvirostra minor*. They were working on the cones of pines along Lincoln Ave., Pasadena, and when disturbed by the report of a gun, were readily recalled by imitating the note of the female. Different members of the Club have looked sharply for this Crossbill among the pines on Wilson's Peak during the past few years without success, but now the dry year and consequent lack of food, brings them to our very door.

F. S. DAGGETT, Pasadena, Cal., Dec. 26, 1898.

Unusual Lining of a Red Bellied Hawk's Nest and Sonoma County Notes. On April 14, 1899 I secured a set $\frac{3}{4}$ Red-bellied Hawk and was surprised to notice a nest of the Californian Bush Tit used as part of the lining of the hawk's nest. It was torn open about four inches from the bottom and as the shells of several eggs

were stuck to the feathers inside, the Bush Tit's nest must have been taken from the tree by the hawks and torn open afterward. On April 7 the hawk's nest held two eggs but the Bush Tit's nest was not then a part of the lining.

During the winter of 1896 I saw what I supposed was a Mountain Bluebird, but not until last winter was I positive that *S. arctica* could be placed on my list of Sonoma Co. birds. On December 8 I saw two and they were common in January and February, and several were seen on March 9. They remained in large open fields and seemed to find plenty of food as a male shot on Jan. 18 was in fine condition.

In the March-April BULLETIN Mr. Slevin speaks of seeing some Swallows at Point Reyes on Dec. 31 which he took to be the Violet-green. I think the birds were Tree Swallows as I have never seen the Violet-green until late in February, while the Tree Swallow has been noted every month in the year. In winter they can often be seen flying about some warm springs along the foothills at the edge of the marsh off San Pablo Bay.

HENRY W. CARRIGER, Sonoma, Cal., April 16, 1899.

Eastern Junco and White-throated Sparrow in California. I have the pleasure to record the capture of three specimens of *Junco hyemalis* in California. The first, a male I took at Battle Creek on October 23, 1898. The other two were found at St. Helena, a male on the first of last February and a female three days later. Through the kindness of Mr. W. E. Bryant I may record four specimens of *Zonotrichia albicollis* for this state. One was taken at Los Angeles, Feb. 25, 1897 and is mounted in Mr. Bryant's collection. Three taken at Santa Rosa now belong to me. Dates of two are Oct. 13, 1898 and Nov. 23, 1898. The third one has not yet been forwarded to me. There appears to be no difference between these and eastern specimens of *Z. albicollis*.

RICHARD C. MCGREGOR, Palo Alto, Cal.

Notes from Alameda, Cal. **WESTERN BLUEBIRD:** For the last seven or eight years I have not met this never common bird as formerly. On frequent trips through the county and Contra Costa County in spring I have noticed from three to ten on each trip during the past five years and at times saw none at all. It is a sparse breeder in Alameda County. An acquaintance of mine took a set of eggs in this town about fifteen years ago.

The last Dwarf Hermit Thrush was seen, rather heard, April 6, a few miles from here. It was unusually common this winter. One made itself at home about my woodshed and became quite tame, eating grubs and bore worms when I was splitting wood.

Western Robins were very scarce up to January. In February they were quite abundant, singing freely. I heard one singing in December.

One Varied Thrush noted April 12, they have nearly all departed now. Observed the first one on Sept. 27.

A few Western Golden-crowned Kinglets wintered here in the live oaks and evergreens. I observed them occasionally from October to March. The Ruby-crowns were common, as usual, this winter, but not gregarious like the Golden-crowns.

On Sept. 27 I heard the "call" notes of a Russet-backed Thrush, and although the bird remained hidden, I knew I was not deceived by its indistinguishable voice. The late date is commendable.

Nuthatches are rarely observed any year. Perhaps they do not occur at all some years in this immediate locality. They were often seen this winter. A Red-breasted was the first one seen, Aug. 30. Took one Sept. 5 and one Oct. 10, and a Slender-billed Nov. 11. The last birds seen were in the middle of February. All the birds ever seen here were seen within a radius of 300 yards.

I have observed the Western Winter Wren here only several times. Took one Oct. 6.

Plain Titmice are fast disappearing and are growing quite uncommon. Further back in the hills is where civilization has driven them. Young were found in two nests April 8.

The American Pipit in winter appears to be as much at home in town as the urban English Sparrow. After a rain they can be found singly or in small bunches along the pavements in the densest part of town looking for worms.

Took a ♂ California Creeper Jan. 14, making the first one I ever saw in the county.

Parkman's and Vigor's Wrens are seen almost the year around. Last winter (1897-8) a Parkman's remained about my garden and the winter before last (1896-7) a Vigor's wintered near by. Neither species passed this winter here.

In January I took a ♂ Tule Wren from the salt marsh near here. Several of the crown feathers and one wing primary (secondary) were pure white.

Peculiar Eggs of California Shrike and Other Notes. In the San Joaquin Valley about twenty-eight miles southeast of Stockton, on May 23, 1898, I found two nests of the California Shrike in a grove of locusts near the road, both containing eggs partly incubated. One egg in the set of four is pure white, with a faint greenish tint, marked at the larger end with a black scrawl, and over the surface are a few obscure specks of light brown. The other three are typical specimens although one is lightly marked. The set (?) of two also contains an almost unmarked specimen.

On June 15, 1897 near Soquel, Santa Cruz Co., Cal. I took a nest of the Western Wood Pewee containing three fresh eggs. On examining the nest after reaching camp I was surprised to find two more eggs beneath the lining, in which the contents were partly dried. They differ much in size and color from the other eggs and do not seem to have been laid by the same individuals.

MILTON S. RAY, San Francisco, Cal.

Notes from Marin and San Benito Counties, Cal. In BULLETIN No. 2 are some interesting notes from different sections of the state concerning the appearance of birds unusual in the localities mentioned. It strikes me that it would be beneficial to the students of ornithology if such notes were supplemented by additional ones from persons who have been in position to make observations upon the species mentioned in different localities at corresponding dates, as this would assist very materially in studying distribution and habits. Accordingly I will endeavor to make a start in this line by adding my notes to those of the last issue.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta canadensis*). Mr. Otto Emerson speaks of these birds having appeared in Alameda Co. in September 1898 and mentions their occurrence in Marin County. At that time they were very abundant here, the first having been observed on Aug. 29 when two or three were seen. A few days later they were very numerous, frequenting almost altogether at this time the fir and cypress trees on the ranges. In October they became less abundant and toward the middle of the month were found feeding among the live oak trees, even in the valley near the house. By Nov. 1 they had all disappeared. This bird has never to my knowledge, been recorded in Marin Co. before. I saw a few in San Mateo on Nov. 6.

LEWIS' WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes torquatus*). These birds breed to a greater or less extent, seemingly depending upon the season, at Paicines, San Benito Co., Cal., where we have taken several sets. On the first of last October a large number of immigrants must have come in as they were far more numerous than those breeding there would account for by natural increase. My brother and I collected a beautiful series at this time of birds of the year in different plumages, some of which were exceedingly interesting.

AMERICAN CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra minor*). At times these birds pass through Marin Co. in numbers, stopping for a short while to feed, often on the Tojon berries. As they are very shy and generally frequent the tops of the tall Douglas firs on the higher ranges they are difficult to obtain, but specimens have been taken on two occasions by C. A. Allen. Some years elapse without any being observed, but this does not prove that they have not been here, as their usual feeding grounds are seldom visited by any observer.

WESTERN EVENING GROSBEAK (*Coccothraustes v. montanus*). On October 14, 1898 a ♂ of this species was shot near Point Reyes Station, Marin Co., and sent to me. Their occurrence in this county has been reported to me before but as no specimens had been taken the reports were not verified.

MYRTLE WARBLER (*Dendroica coronata*). This bird is much more common in California than most people have been led to suppose. There are a number in our collection from Marin and San Benito counties, though we have only collected them casually. I have seen a good many that have not been taken and find that at close range they can be sufficiently recognized by the superloral and postocular streaks to enable one to be moderately accurate in identification. That is to say, if a person were to shoot all that he saw with this characteristic he would find the majority of his birds to be *coronata*.

SEX OF WINTER RESIDENTS. It would be interesting to hear from different localities in regard to which sex predominates in some of the winter residents. For instance, here at San Geronimo, nearly every Red-breasted Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*) taken is a ♀ especially so in midwinter. All of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets (*Regulus calendula*) taken here have been males. Almost all of the Dwarf Hermit Thrushes (*Hylocichla aonalaschke*) also have been males, only three that I know of having proved to be females, one of these being a partial albino. We have several Thick-billed Sparrows taken here at different times and all ♀. These last are present some winters, but not all. How are the birds above mentioned in other localities?

JOSEPH MAILLIARD, San Geronimo, Cal.

An Account of the Taking of Four Sets of Eggs of the Ivory Gull.

FOUR eggs of the Ivory Gull (*Larus eburneus*) were brought home by Gustaf Kolthoff, naturalist to the Nathorst Swedish Expedition in the summer and early autumn of 1898, having been received from Captain Kjældsen of the ship Frithiof in exchange. Mr. Kolthoff writes "When we were going from King Carls-Land to Franz Josef-Land we met on the way the steamer Frithiof, owner the old ice traveller Captain Kjældsen, who had been there with the Wellman Expedition. Captain Kjældsen told me that when returning and sailing close to the coast they had, near Cape Oppolzer on the S. W. of Franz Josef-Land in 80.04 N. latitude to about 57° E. longitude, visited a little, low-lying, unnamed island, situated very nearly south of Cape Oppolzer, upon which were breeding a large number of 'Ice Gulls' (Ivory Gulls). The nests were on the flat ground, built of green moss, and

only in four cases was there still a single egg,—in all the rest were young, very small, half-grown and none so grown that they could use their wings. The four eggs were all strongly incubated. This was on August 4 and upon the 12th we met the steamer and I obtained all that Captain Kjældsen had—four eggs and one young bird. As I understood Captain Kjældsen the Wellman Expedition had left his ship before it visited Cape Oppolzer." Mr. Kolthoff adds "On the Spitzbergen and King Carls-Land coasts the Ivory Gulls had their nests on high cliffs where it is nearly impossible to reach them." Two of the above eggs are in the Upsala Museum and the two others in my collection. The latter measure 2.29x1.69 and 2.25x1.68 inches.

A. W. JOHNSON, Waterside, Eng.

(The BULLETIN, though devoted to Pacific Coast ornithology, gladly gives space to the above notes on this rare and beautiful Gull. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Cooper Club, and is now enjoying a sojourn in his old home. ED.)

General News Notes.

TROPICAL EXPEDITION WRECKED.

The scientific expedition which sailed from San Francisco February 25 for tropical waters, as recorded in the March BULLETIN, met with disaster about thirty miles north of Magdalena Bay off Lower California, on the night of March 16, where the schooner was wrecked and deserted. Those comprising the party were A. W. Anthony (in command), H. B. Kaeding, Chase Littlejohn, R. H. Beck, R. C. McGregor, J. M. Gaylord, Geo. Spencer, Chas. Jones and Arthur Whitlock and the schooner carried a cargo of thirty tons of giant powder which was to be landed at Amapala, C. A. the first objective point of the expedition. Everything went smoothly until the night of the wreck; Mr. Beck was at the wheel about midnight, with the schooner running before a strong wind, when, without warning, it grounded on a sandy beach. At sunset the mainland was about fifty miles distant and the schooner's course was shaped to pass a certain promontory at fifteen miles to the seaward. No explanation for the wreck can be given further than the surmise that the schooner was caught by a strong current and carried shoreward. Almost all the specimens collected were lost, but most of the collecting outfits were saved.

The schooner was a total wreck and the absence of rocks alone prevented the ignition of the giant powder by the vessel pounding on the beach, for which the party was duly thankful. A cold and cheerless night was spent on the beach, with lamentable lack of raiment in some cases to face the cold wind and drifting sand. Mr. Beck tells of throwing everything possible overboard next day to drift in on the tide; finally several suits belonging to him were "hove overboard" but the tide had turned and they drifted out to sea! The party finally reached Magdalena, where the Mexican customs officials confiscated most of the salvage under various pretexts. The party later reached San Francisco by steamer. The expedition had just reached the tropics and Man-O-War Birds and Caracaras had begun to appear. Duck Hawks and Ospreys were nesting on all the isolated islands and Mr. Beck relates the taking one morning by the party, on Natividad Island, of six sets of *Falco peregrinus anatum*. The nests were in small caves on the ground and

on the tops of cliffs, quite unlike the difficult sites selected by the birds farther north. A number of fine negatives were lost. Sets of Xantus' Murrelet were taken on some of the islands.

Mr. Fred A. Schneider Jr. of College Park, Cal., one of the four promoters of the Cooper Ornithological Club in 1893, was united in marriage on April 26 to Miss Charlotte Phillips, formerly of College Park but later a resident of Seattle. Mr. Schneider was formerly among the most active of Californian ornithologists, but for several years past a course at Stanford University has precluded active work in ornithology. He has long taken a prominent role in the Stanford Glee Club and is a member of numerous college fraternities and other social organizations. As a tennis player he has been ranked one of the champions of Santa Clara county. His pleasing manner has made for him a legion of friends who will wish him and his charming bride a full measure of life's joys. The marriage took place in Seattle and the couple will probably reside at College Park.

MR. O. W. HOWARD writes from Arizona: "While in camp about twenty-five miles below Benson on the San Pedro River (March 25) I saw a pure albino Great Blue Heron. It was flying around in a flock of fifteen or so, and to all appearances was as white as snow. I tried a shot at it at long range with my .38 Winchester but never touched him. I think the birds will probably nest down there for there were fifteen or twenty roosting in the cottonwood trees."

THE FARMER'S CLUB of Santa Clara County was addressed at San Jose on April 1 by W. Otto Emerson of Haywards on "Economic Ornithology." Mr. Emerson gave an excellent hard-sense talk which was illustrated with numerous bird skins and charts showing the structure of the bills of various species. Such lectures are of inestimable benefit to both the fruit-growers and the birds themselves, and a practical illustration of how the gospel of bird protection should and can be spread.

ERNEST ADAMS of San Jose will depart early in June for the Sierras of Plumas and Modoc counties, where he will spend several months working up the birds and mammals of this interesting corner of California. He will visit the Goose Lake region during his trip.

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Write plainly and confine your article to one side of the
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This issue of the Bulletin was mailed May 15.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

**Bird
Protection
Versus
Sentiment.**

Apropos the wave of bird protection which has been sweeping through all ornithological journals of late, it is well to pause and analyze the motives of the several writers before wholly accepting their pleas, bowing our heads to grief and lamenting the wickedness of collectors at large. The person who has not trod the field from dawn till twilight, who knows nothing of the denizens of the woods and tree-tops, and who has never listened to the seabirds' cries above the boom of old ocean, cannot preach the doctrine of bird protection understandingly. Those who have delved into and grasped many of the delightful secrets which ornithology holds, and who are now urging a proper course in protective work, are worthy the thanks of every true ornithologist. Who can doubt the effectiveness of the work of Mr. Mackay in protecting the Terns on certain islands along the Atlantic seaboard, thus preserving a natural beauty? But those who are joining the wild rush simply to be an Audubonian,—to cry "bird protection" and then listen for the applause—all the while condemning legitimate science, are of vastly a different stamp.

The protectionist who would prevent the

slaughter of a single bird is as rampant as the collector who thinks he would be justified in shooting every winged creature of the air. Many excellent pleas have appeared in various journals of late, the writers of which doubtless speak from the heart and wish to eradicate evils,—such as the "egg collecting scourge" as it has been termed—which have some foundation in fact. These writers have studied nature at her best and the birds have no better protector than the ornithologist himself if he be one of conscience, for the collecting of a proper number of birds does not imply brutality. But when some ambitious extremist sits himself down to read apart the current magazines and even reference works, and makes careful note of every mention of a bird slain or a nest taken (over-looking, of course, the observations and spirit of the article in his zeal) and then within his narrow mind evolves a whining article of "bird protection," he has doubtless gratified his ambition and with folded hands and a sort of rapturous serenity may take his seat beside the faithful! His mission has been filled and the birds may hope for oblivion to swallow him up in so far as he will ever protect them. Such maudlin sentiment is hardly worth condemning and those who are really protecting the birds may well regret such additions to their ranks.

Real protection will be accomplished by the live ornithologists who have a practical mission to perform in this respect, but they may well hesitate to take hold of the work if its effectiveness is to be hindered and made nauseating by the misdirected energy of such persons as we have pointed out. That there are many skins collected today which the demands of science do not warrant, everyone knows. A remedy is needed, which, if it does not materially increase the birds, will at least leave many unslaughtered that annually pay the penalty to the over-zealous collector. Those who accumulate vast series of eggs will have to plead hard for justification, although the egg evil is not so wide-spreading as some have claimed. It is well known that almost every bird will lay a second time when robbed and rear a brood as successfully as if the first nest had been undisturbed.

The two really great evils are the collecting of birds in large numbers during the breeding season, when many young in the nest are sacrificed, and the unlimited collecting of skins for mercenary purposes. We cannot condone either offense, which rarely can justify itself, and the evil as it exists in California will shortly be aired in the BULLETIN. Let us have bird protection in a practical way, without all the sentiment which does more than anything else to disgust the majority of well-meaning ornithologists.—C. B.

We are pleased to note that Mr. Robert Baird McLain of Wheeling, W. Va., who became a member of the Cooper Ornithological Club during his attendance at Stanford University, is actively pursuing his work in Herpetology since his departure from the coast. He has recently published three papers under the heading "Contributions to North Ameri-

can Herpetology." One, "Contributions to Neotropical Herpetology" gives a list of neotropical reptiles in the Stanford University Zoological Collection from Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Salvador. The second paper "Critical Notes on a Collection of Reptiles from the Western Coast of the United States" promises to form the basis of a corrected list which will be a guide for future students along this line, while the third paper is entitled "Notes on a Collection of Reptiles Made at Fort Smith, Ark." All the papers bear the imprint of careful work by the author, although the typography leaves much to be desired, but Mr. McLain may well congratulate himself upon putting forth such personal effort.

Bird-Lore for April comes promptly and, if anything, exceeds the initial number in contents and point of illustration. Typographically, as heretofore, it is without a flaw and will undoubtedly set the pace for ornithological journals in this respect for all time. The illustrations are such as every user of the camera and indeed every ornithologist may delight in. The frontispiece showing a Least Bittern on its nest and two half-tones of a Killdeer and nest, photographed from life, are notable examples of the possibilities of the camera in the field. The leading articles which treat chiefly of avian photography will benefit ornithologists who have photographic field work in view. The other articles are of a popular style, probably calculated to inspire in the "young idea" a proper reverence for the birds, all of which we hope may be effective, though we fear the inherent taste of the youth to "go gunning" cannot be so easily eradicated. Stress is laid upon the published accounts of certain eggging trips, which are condemned, and we fear that sometimes any real merit or good intentions which the "condemned" may have possessed or shown in his article, are lost sight of.

The ninth supplement to the A. O. U. Check List, printed in the *Auk* for January, contains several new races of birds which have been accepted by the Committee on Classification and added to the check list, and which will interest Californians. Among them are *Oceanodroma kaedingi* ANTHONY, Kaeding's Petrel, "Socorro and Clarion Islands north to Southern California"; *Pipilo enucleator californicus* PRICE, Californian Pine Grosbeak, "Higher parts of the Sierra Nevada, Central California"; *Carpodacus mcgregori* ANTHONY, McGregor's House Finch, "San Benito Id., Lower Cal."; *Astragalinus tristis salicamans* (GRINNELL) "Pacific Coast region from Washington to Southern California"; *Pipilo maculatus clementae* (GRINNELL) "San Clemente Island, California"; *Harporhynchus redivivus pasadenensis* GRINNELL, Pasadena Thrasher, "Southern California"; *Harporhynchus lecontei arenicola* ANTHONY, Desert Thrasher, "Lower California."

Through the kindness and generosity of Mr. Lyman Belding, one of its honorary members, the Club has come into possession of a valuable MS. work, which, although unpublished,

forms a companion part to Mr. Belding's well-known *Land Birds of the Pacific District*, dealing with the water birds of the same territory in a most comprehensive way. The bound volume consists of 246 type-written pages with an autographic preface by Mr. Belding, who states it was practically completed in 1886. He says: "The reversing of the Check List of the A. O. U. whereby the water birds came first in the list, instead of last as formerly, found me unprepared to give the time to the water birds that I needed, and supposing that the water birds would soon be needed for publication, I made a hurried compilation, finishing it in five or six weeks and this is the result." These notes, which form probably the most complete and valuable list of the water birds of the Pacific Coast yet undertaken, are largely compilations from different publications, and necessary interlineations have been made up to 1897.

The BULLETIN presents with pleasure in this issue a sketch by Miss Charlotte Bray of Santa Clara, drawn from a description. Miss Bray possesses genius as an artist and we hope to present other of her bird delineations in future issues.

Band-tailed Pigeon Nesting in Santa Clara County, Cal.

During the last four years I have found two nests of the Band-tailed Pigeon, both in Santa Clara county and within ten miles of San Jose. The nests were both found in oak trees in a comparative oak forest. The first was found April 19, 1895 and was built on a horizontal limb of a white-oak tree twenty-five feet from the ground and contained one squab about a week old. The parent was flushed from the nest and well seen. The second nest was found March 11, 1898 and was built near the end of a horizontal live-oak limb thirty feet from the ground and was just completed. Both nests were compact structures, composed of an outer layer of twigs, filled in with pine needles and lined with fine grass. There are no pine trees in the vicinity, and the birds must have carried the needles from a distance. The pigeons used to be very common in the winter time in this vicinity, but are quite scarce now because of the timber being cut down.

WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal.

(Although the Wild Pigeon has never been recorded as nesting in the valleys of California, there seems to be no doubt of the above record being true. The locality in which they were found is heavily wooded with live and white oak timber, and has been a favorite feeding ground for this species for years, so it seems not improbable that a few stray pairs remained to breed.—ED.)

Official Minutes of Southern Division.

MARCH.

The Division met at the residence of Mr. Chas. E. Grosbeck in Altadena March 25, with Messrs. Daggett, Schneider, McCormick, Grosbeck, Simmons and Robertson present. Previous minutes were approved. A bill for 90 cents was allowed the secretary. A bill for \$1.25 for typewriting MS. was referred to both Divisions for payment. The name of Mr. Geo. S. Chambliss of Pasadena was proposed for membership. The matter of having a club crest as proposed by Mr. Emerson was adopted, the style, size etc. being left to be decided on by the President and Secretary after corresponding with the Northern Division. Adjourned.

APRIL.

The meeting of the Southern Division was held at the residence of Mr. F. S. Daggett in Pasadena April 29 with the following members present: Messrs. Reiser, Tyler, Daggett, Leland, McCormick and Robertson. Mr. Fordyce Grinnell and Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Moody were present as visitors. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. A bill for \$1.25 for typewriting was ordered paid. Mr. Geo. S. Chambliss of Pasadena was elected to membership. The names of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Moody of Pasadena were proposed for membership. Adjourned.

HOWARD ROBERTSON, Division Sec'y.

Official Minutes of Northern Division.

MARCH.

The Division met March 2 at the home of H. C. Ward in Alameda with ten members present and Dr. Ingalls and Mr. H. B. Torrey as visitors. The names of Wm. L. Atkinson of Santa Clara and H. B. Torrey of Berkeley were proposed for active membership. A bill for postage amounting to \$1.24 was allowed the secretary. Southern Division minutes for January and February were read and filed. The following papers were read: "Capture of a California Condor" by H. G. Rising of the Southern Division; "Coming of the Mockingbird" by W. O. Emerson; "Summer Resident Warblers of Arizona" by O. W. Howard of Southern Division; "Nesting of Audubon's Hermit Thrush of the Sierras" by Lyman Belding; "Capture of a Rabbit by a Golden Eagle" by Wm L. Atkinson. W. Otto Emerson presented a sketch to be used as an electrotype for imprinting the stationery of Club members and official publications of the Club, the same consisting of a shield on which is figured a Californian Quail and an artistic hummingbird's nest and eggs, together with the name of the Club. This was adopted subject to the voice of the Southern Division. Adjourned.

MAY.

The Division met May 6 at the residence of C. Barlow in San Jose. Wm. L. Atkinson of Santa Clara and H. B. Torrey of Berkeley were

elected to active membership. A design for a club crest as drawn by Mr. Emerson was finally decided upon. A bill for \$1.29 current postage was allowed. The following names were proposed for active membership to be elected at the next meeting: Milton S. Ray, San Francisco; N. M. Flower, Copperopolis; Chester C. Lamb, Berkeley and E. V. Warren, Pacific Grove. A letter was read from R. C. McGregor, secretary of the State List Committee urging all members to send MS. of county lists. The work was commenced in 1895 and will now be pushed through rapidly by Mr. McGregor. Southern Division reports of March 25 and April 29 were read. A biographical sketch of J. Maurice Hatch, a deceased member of the Southern Division was read. Several papers were read after which the meeting adjourned to again convene at Alameda on July 1.

C. BARLOW, Division Secretary.

Publications Received.

Auk, XVI, No. 2, April, 1899.
Bird Lore, I, No. 2, April, 1899.
Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, III, No. 1, Jan., 1899.
Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, I, No. 2, April, 1899.
Maine Sportsman, VI, No. 68, April, 1899.
Museum, V, Nos. 5 and 6, March and April, 1899.
Oologist, XVI, Nos. 3 and 4, March and April, 1899.
Ornithologisches Jahrbuch, IX, No. 4.
Osprey, III, Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8, Jan.-April, 1899.
Plant World, II, No. 7, April, 1899.
Wilson Bulletin, No. 25, March, 1899.

Mr. Walter F. Webb of Albion, N. Y. informs us that he has secured an egg of the California Vulture from California, taken on March 7 last, which is considerably earlier than the average nesting date.

Mr. Henry C. Johnson, whose contributions from Utah will be noticed in the BULLETIN, is an active member of the Cooper Club, having joined during his several years' residence in California, the Club's constitution permitting the retention of membership where a member leaves the state.

Mr. Frank H. Lattin of Albion, N. Y. graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Buffalo on April 25, and his numerous friends on the coast will wish him as bright a career as a *medico* as he has attained in the capacity of editor of the *Oologist*. The *Oologist* will doubtless be published regularly as heretofore.

Mr. W. Edgar Taylor of Ruston, La., announces the early publication of the *Gulf Fauna and Flora Bulletin* as a bi-monthly of not less than thirty pages, at the subscription price of \$2.50 per year. The *Bulletin* will be primarily one for biologists "devoted to the biological interests of the Gulf section." Its scope apparently extends over a field which no current journal has yet attempted to cover entirely.

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